

S.N.: 09/965,784
Art Unit: 2618

REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 19, 20, and 22-30 are currently pending. Claims 18 and 21 have been cancelled. Claim has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 18. Claim 20 also incorporates the subject matter of cancelled claim 21. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

The Patent Office in paragraph 1 referred to Bridges as U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0186695 and later refers to Bridges as U.S. Patent No. 6,784,899. The citation of U.S. Patent No. 6,784,899, is believed to be a mistake as it has a different set of inventors and is directed to multimedia messages. Accordingly, Bridges, U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0186695 has been treated as the intended reference in rejecting the claims.

The Patent Office rejected claims 1 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bridges, U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0186695, in view of Guruparan, U.S. Patent No. 6,141,551.

The Patent Office rejected claims 4, 7, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bridges in view of Guruparan, and further in view of McGregor, U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2001/0000777.

The Patent Office rejected claims 10, 12, 15, 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bridges in view of Guruparan, and further in view of McGregor.

The Patent Office rejected claims 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Bridges, Guruparan, McGregor, and Osmani, U.S. Patent No. 5,815,807.

The Patent Office rejected claims 13, 14, 16, 19, 21, 23, 25, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Bridges, Guruparan, McGregor, and Bamburak, U.S. Patent No. 6,807,418.

The Patent Office rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Bridges, Guruparan, McGregor, and Mizikovsky.

The Patent Office rejected claims 5, 6, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Bridges, Guruparan, and Bamburak.

The Patent Office rejected claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Bridges, Guruparan, and Mizikovsky.

Claim 1 recites

S.N.: 09/965,784
Art Unit: 2618

A method for operating a wireless communication system of a type that transmits System Identification (SID) parameters to mobile stations, comprising storing a SID that identifies a Home service provider for the mobile station; **identifying a plurality of SIDs having a common spatial characteristic**; storing the identified plurality of SIDs in a memory that is accessible by a mobile station; comparing a SID received from a wireless service provider to the stored plurality of SIDs; and **upon any one of the plurality of stored SIDs matching the received SID, declaring the wireless service provider as being a Home service provider for the mobile station.**

Claim 17 recites

A mobile station, comprising: a controller; a wireless transceiver; and at least one memory, the at least one memory comprising a location for storing a Home SID and other locations for storing a plurality of Cousin SIDs, wherein a SID received through said wireless controller is declared by said controller to be a Home service provider if the received SID matches the stored Home SID or any one of the plurality of stored Cousin SIDs, wherein the Cousin SIDs are stored into said at least one memory under the direction of a prepaid service provider, and correspond to SIDs associated with one or more service providers that service a predetermined geographical area that is defined to be a non-roaming area of a customer of the prepaid service provider, wherein the Home SID is stored in at least one memory without the direction of a prepaid service provider.

The Patent Office asserted “Consider claim 1, Bridges teaches ... **identifying a plurality of SIDs having a common spatial characteristic (read on “air interface technology”)** (page 3 [0026]), **common spatial characteristic read on “roaming airtime rates, services or air interface technology”**); storing the identified plurality of SIDs in a memory that is accessible by

S.N.: 09/965,784
Art Unit: 2618

a mobile station (page 3 [0028]); comparing a SID received from a wireless service provider to the stored plurality of SIDs (page 2[0014])...”

Bridges does not disclose or suggest “identifying a plurality of SIDs having a common spatial characteristic.” The Patent Office’s assertion that roaming airtime rates, services of air interface technology correspond to a common spatial characteristic is incorrect. Airtime rates concern costs and do not relate to a common spatial characteristic. Services are features and capabilities that are provided and do not relate to a common spatial characteristic. Air interface technology exemplified by Bridges (paragraph 0046, bottom) as TDMA, CDMA, PACS, GSM, and PCS-1900, do not relate to a common spatial characteristic. There is no disclosure or suggestion by Bridges of a step for “identifying a plurality of SIDs having a common spatial characteristic.”

Guruparan, which discloses that a control channel is identified as corresponding to the home service provider or the other service provider (column 8, lines 12-25), does not remedy the deficiency of Bridges.

Thus, claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record.

The Patent Office asserted “In the same field of endeavor, Guruparan teaches at least one memory comprising a location for storing a Home SID and other locations for storing a plurality of Cousin SIDs (col. 7, lines 42-59, Cousin SIDs read on “identification codes”).

Neither Bridges nor Guruparan disclose or suggest “at least one memory comprising a location for storing a Home SID and other locations for storing a plurality of Cousin SIDs , wherein a SID received through said wireless controller is declared by said controller to be a Home service provider if the received SID matches the stored Home SID or any one of the plurality of stored Cousin SIDs, wherein the Cousin SIDs are stored into said at least one memory under the direction of a prepaid service provider, and correspond to SIDs associated with one or more service providers that service a predetermined geographical area that is defined to be a non-roaming area of a customer of the prepaid service provider, wherein the Home SID is stored in at least one memory without the direction of a prepaid service provider.” The paragraph in column

S.N.: 09/965,784
Art Unit: 2618

7, lines 42-59, that the Patent Office asserts as a teaching instead discloses that a control channel's identification code is used to identify the channel as associated with the home service provider or the other service provider. Although Guruparan discloses distinguishing between a home service provider and an other service provider, neither Bridges nor Guruparan disclose or suggest storage of the Cousin SIDs by a prepaid provider and storage of the Home SID by other than the prepaid provider.

Thus, claim 17 is allowable over Bridges in view of Guruparan.

The Patent Office rejected claims 10, 12, 15, 18, 20, 22, 24, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bridges in view of Guruparan, and further in view of McGregor, U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2001/0000777.

Claim 10 recites

A wireless communication system of a type that transmits System Identification (SID) parameters to mobile stations, comprising in mobile stations associated with a prepaid service provider at least one memory storing a SID that identifies a Home service provider for the mobile station and a list containing a plurality of other SIDs **having a common spatial characteristic**, the mobile station comprising a processor that is coupled to the at least one memory and that is responsive to a received SID for comparing the received SID to the SIDs in the list of SIDs and, upon any one of the plurality of SIDs matching the received SID, declaring a wireless service provider that transmitted the SID as being the Home service provider for the mobile station.

Bridges does not disclose or suggest "identifying a plurality of SIDs having a common spatial characteristic." The Patent Office's assertion that roaming airtime rates, services of air interface technology correspond to a common spatial characteristic is incorrect. Airtime rates concern costs and do not relate to a common spatial characteristic. Services are features and capabilities that are provided and do not relate to a common spatial characteristic. Air interface technology exemplified by Bridges (paragraph 0046, bottom) as TDMA, CDMA, PACS, GSM,

S.N.: 09/965,784
Art Unit: 2618

and PCS-1900, do not relate to a common spatial characteristic. There is no disclosure or suggestion by Bridges of a step for “identifying a plurality of SIDs having a common spatial characteristic.”

Guruparan, which discloses that a control channel is identified as corresponding to the home service provider or the other service provider (column 8, lines 12-25), does not remedy the deficiency of Bridges.

McGregor, which discloses a Home SID and a prepaid mode, does not remedy the deficiency of Bridges.

Thus, claim 10 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 20 recites

A method for operating a wireless communication system of a type that transmits System Identification (SID) parameters to prepaid mobile stations, comprising: storing, in at least one memory that is accessible by a mobile station, a first SID that identifies a Home service provider for the mobile station and a plurality of second SIDs; comparing a SID received from a wireless service provider to the first SID and upon the received SID matching the first SID, declaring the wireless service provider to be a Home category service provider for the mobile station; and if the received SID does not match the first SID, comparing the received SID to the plurality of second SIDs and upon the received SID matching any one of the plurality of second SIDs, declaring the wireless service provider to be the Home category service provider for the mobile station, wherein if the received SID does not match any of the second SIDs, comparing the received SID to SIDs stored in an intelligent roaming data base (IRDB).

The Patent Office considers Bridges to teach a first SID (paragraph 0013), a plurality of second SIDs (paragraph 0046), and that comparing the SIDs and declaring a Home category service provider (paragraphs 0014, 0060). The disclosure by Bridges of a mobile station stores a

S.N.: 09/965,784
Art Unit: 2618

SID to uniquely identify a home service provider (paragraph 0013) and that a broadcast SID is compared to the home SID to determine whether the mobile phone is roaming (paragraph 0014) is prior art that provides background against which the invention of Bridges is set. Bridges discloses, as his invention, the Preferred System Identification List (PSL) and/or an Intelligent Roaming Database Downloading (IRDB) is accessed to indicate the band where the mobile station is to find a preferred system (paragraph 0046). The Patent Office considers Bamburak to disclose comparing a received SID to SIDs in an intelligent roaming data base (col. 5, lines 41-48, and col. 10, lines 9-21). However, the claimed subject matter of comparing the received SID to SIDs stored in an intelligent roaming data base (IRDB) is disclosed as the second step of finding a suitable service providing. Bridges, Bamburak, McGregor, and Guruparan fail to disclose or suggest the intermediate step of claim 20 of “if the received SID does not match the first SID, comparing the received SID to the plurality of second SIDs and upon the received SID matching any one of the plurality of second SIDs.”

Thus, claim 20 is allowable over Bridges, Bamburak, McGregor, and/or Guruparan.

Claim 22 recites

A method for operating a wireless communication system of a type that transmits System Identification (SID) parameters to prepaid mobile stations, comprising: storing, in at least one memory that is accessible by a mobile station, a first SID that identifies a Home service provider for the mobile station and a plurality of second SIDs; comparing a SID received from a wireless service provider to the plurality of second SIDs and upon the received SID matching any one of the plurality of second SIDs, declaring the wireless service provider to be a Home category service provider for the mobile station; and if the received SID does not match any one of the plurality of second SIDs, comparing the received SID to the first SID and upon the received SID matching the first SID, declaring the wireless service provider to be the Home category service provider for the mobile station.

S.N.: 09/965,784
Art Unit: 2618

As discussed above, Bridges discloses determining if a received SID is the home SID; if not, Bridges compares the received SID to the IRDB. Bamburak discloses a similar process. The invention as recited in claim 22 compares the received SID to a plurality of second SIDs and, if not found, the received SID is compared to the first SID to determine a Home category service provider. Guruparan does not remedy the deficiency of Bridges as Guruparan (col. 7, lines 42-59) sorts the control channels according to whether they are associated with the home service provider or the other provider. Guruparan does not disclose the received SID is first compared against a plurality of second SIDs and as a second step against the first SID. McGregor, also cited by the Patent Office, does not address this claimed subject matter.

Thus, claim 22 is allowable over Bridges, Guruparan, McGregor, and Bamburak.

Claim 24 recites

A method for operating a wireless communication system of a type that transmits System Identification (SID) and System Operator Code (SOC) parameters to prepaid mobile stations, comprising: storing, in at least one memory that is accessible by a mobile station, a SOC that identifies a Home service provider for the mobile station and a plurality of SIDs; comparing a SOC received from a wireless service provider to the stored SOC and upon the received SOC matching the stored SOC, declaring the wireless service provider to be a Home category service provider for the mobile station; and if the received SOC does not match the stored SOC, comparing a related received SID to the plurality of stored SIDs and upon the received SID matching any one of the plurality of second SIDs, declaring the wireless service provider to be the Home category service provider for the mobile station.

Bridges discloses that either a SID or SOC received on a control channel may be compared with the SID or SOC of the home service provider to determine if the mobile station is located in the home system (paragraph 0060). Bridges does not disclose or suggest comparing one of the received SOC and received SID with a corresponding stored SOC or SID and, if no

S.N.: 09/965,784
Art Unit: 2618

match is found, using the other of the received SOC and received SID in making a comparison with a corresponding SOC or SID. Guruparan is irrelevant to the claimed subject matter as his invention only determines whether a received SID corresponds to a home service provider or to an other service provider. Bamburak, as in the case of Bridges, discloses using one of the SOC and the SID to determine if the corresponding service provider is an optimal service provider. McGregor is not relevant to this claimed subject matter as McGregor cursorily discloses a Home SID and is concerned with a mobile phone's internal accounting.

Thus, claim 24 is allowable over Bridges, Guruparan, Bamburak, and McGregor.

Claim 26 recites

A method for operating a wireless communication system of a type that transmits System Identification (SID) and System Operator Code (SOC) parameters to prepaid mobile stations, comprising: storing, in at least one memory that is accessible by a mobile station, a SOC that identifies a Home service provider for the mobile station and a plurality of SIDs; comparing a SID received from a wireless service provider to the plurality of stored SIDs and upon the received SID matching any one of the plurality of stored SIDs, declaring the wireless service provider to be a Home category service provider for the mobile station; and if the received SID does not match any one of the plurality of stored SIDs, comparing a received SOC to the stored SOC and upon the received SOC matching the stored SOC, declaring the wireless service provider to be the Home category service provider for the mobile station.

Claim 26 recites method steps similar to the format of claim 24 except that, in claim 26, the received SID is compared first and, failing a match, the received SOC is compared. Since, as discussed above, none of Bridges, Guruparan, McGregor, or Bamburak discloses or suggest a first comparison step using SID and, if needed, a second comparison step using SOC, claim 26 is allowable over these references.

Dependent claims 2, 3, and 11 were rejected further in view of Mizikovsky.

Mizikovsky discloses (abstract) a communication device that locates a wireless service provider in a multi-service provider environment using a stored list of preferred service providers, the list has a plurality of uniquely identified sublists, each sublist is associated with a different geographic area and identifies a more preferred service provider and a less preferred service provider. Mizikovsky discloses (col. 8, lines 36-41) the mobile communication device registers with the best stored SOC or SID, that is, an SOC or SID that has at least been associated with a preferred service provider in which the best service provider is identified by comparing the stored SOC or SIDs with the list of preferred SOC or SIDs. Mizikovsky seeks to determine if a received SID or SOC is an optimal, preferred, or prohibited service provider (col. 5, lines 57-67) and does not appear to disclose or suggest assigning a home service provider (e.g., col. 3, lines 10-18). The claimed invention in claim 1, 2, and 3, recites that if a received SID matches one of a plurality of SIDs, then the service provider corresponding to the matched SID from the plurality of SIDs is declared to be a home service provider for the mobile station. Mizikovsky, like Bridges, Guruparan, and McGregor, does not appear to disclose or suggest the claimed subject matter of “a list containing a plurality of other SIDs **having a common spatial characteristic.**”

Dependent claims 29 and 30 were rejected further in view of Osmani.

Osmani discloses (column 1, lines 42-49) “Billing services for radiotelephone subscriber units include prepaid short term billing structures such as calling cards and debit cards and postpaid periodic billing structures. Cellular communication systems are owned and operated for profit by communications companies who typically sell use of the system based on the amount of time spent by the user on the system and the distance involved between the communicating locations. Users may lease or buy cellular phones in order to use them on the system.”

Osmani, like McGregor, Guruparan, and Bridges, does not appear to disclose or fairly suggest “**identifying a plurality of SIDs having a common spatial characteristic.**”

S.N.: 09/965,784
Art Unit: 2618

Thus, claims 29 and 30 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Bridges, Guruparan, McGregor, Mizikovsky, Bamburak, and/ or Osmani, and to allow all of the pending claims 1-17, 19, 20, and 22-30 as now presented for examination. An early notification of the allowability of claims 1-17, 19, 20, and 22-30 is earnestly solicited.

S.N.: 09/965,784
Art Unit: 2618



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